

## Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 DPW-01 /071 W

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R 010435Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SN VS

SUBJ: SENIOR GVN MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PRG ISSUE WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER RAJARATNAM

REF: A. SAIGON 1067

B. SINGAPORE 0429

C. SINGAPORE 0430

### SUMMARY

SENIOR GVN MFA OFFICIAL LE QUAN GIANG MET FOR ONE HOUR JAN 31 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARTNAM TO DISCUSS PRG REPRESENTATION ISSUES. GIANG STRONGLY PROTESTED GOS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE PRG REPS CURRENTLY VISITING SINGAPORE. RAJA AGREED THAT GVN COULD ISSUE STATEMENT IF REQUIRED THAT GOS HAD ASSURED GIANG THAT PRG VISIT PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL AND THAT GOS POSITION ON PRG HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED. GIANG WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE RAJA TO INSTRUCT GOS REP IN GENEVA TO ATTEND LOW CONFERENCE, BUT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT GVN WOULD VOTE AGAINST PRG PARTICIPATION IN WMO CONFERENCE.

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GIANG CONCLUDED FROM RAJA'S REMARKS THAT GOS IS PESSIMISTIC OVER

DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AND BELIEVES PRG HAS IMPROVED ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION. THEREFORE GOS IS UNWILLING TO GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO PROVOKE THE PRG. RAJA WARNED THAT ALGERIANS AND OTHERS WERE BITTER OVER DEFEAT ON CAMBODIAN ISSUE AT LAST SESSION OF UNGA AND WERE DETERMINED THAT NEXT YEAR'S SESSION WOULD RESULT IN SEATING OF GRUNK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

1. GVN MFA OFFICIAL LE QUAN GIANG GAVE DCM FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM. SINCE GVN EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED BY SAIGON THAT PRG REPS WERE CURRENTLY VISITING SINGAPORE, GIANG SAID HE OPENED BY PROTESTING STRONGLY TO RAJA GOS ACTION IN PERMITTING PRG VISIT AND RECEIVING PRG REPS. TO RAJA'S APPARENT DISCOMFORT, GIANG ASKED HOW GOS WOULD VIEW IT IF GVN RECEIVED VISIT FROM SOME ORGANIZATION CALLING FOR LIBERATION OF SINGAPORE.

2. RAJA EXPLAINED VISIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS IN SEPTEMBER, 1973. HE HAD AGREED AT THAT TIME TO RECEIVE PRG REPS AS A MATTER OF COURTESY PROVIDED VISIT WAS UNOFFICIAL AND PRIVATE. RAJA SAID HE HAD ALSO MET WITH PLO REPS IN SAME MANNER.

COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT RAJA MET PLO REPS AT MUSLIM CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR LAST YEAR. HOWEVER WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT PLO REPS HAVE VISITED SINGAPORE.) RAJA SAID PRG REPS WERE NOW RPT NOW IN SINGAPORE AND THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY MEET WITH THEM. HOWEVER, HE WOULD REJECT ANY REQUEST THEY MIGHT MAKE FOR GOS RECOGNITION. (COMMENT: RAJA'S STATEMENT TO GIANG THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY MEET WITH PRG REPS IS AT VARIANCE WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY TAN BOON SENG'S STATEMENT TO DCM REPORTED REF C THAT THEY WOULD TALK TO NO ONE IN GOS HIGHER THAN HIMSELF.)

3. GIANG SAID RAJA AGREED TO HIS REQUEST THAT PRG VISIT NOT BE PUBLICIZED. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT TO RAJA THAT PRG WOULD PROBABLY EXPLOIT THIS VISIT IN THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA. THEREFORE IN THE EVENT THIS HAPPENED GVN WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF GOS WOULD CLARIFY NATURE OF VISIT, EMPHASIZING ITS PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL CHARACTER AND CONFIRMING THAT GOS POLICY TOWARD GVN HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED. RAJA REFUSED TO DO THIS ON GROUNDS THAT GOS NEVER PUBLISHES

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BRIEFLY COMMENTED ON PRIVATE VISITS AND THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD ACTUALLY INCREASE PRG STATUS. GIANG ARGUED THIS POINT, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. RAJA DID SAY THAT GOS WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF GVN WISHED TO CLARIFY VISIT, AND THAT GVN COULD REFER TO RAJA-GIANG MEETING AND SAY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ASSURED GVN THAT PRG VISIT WAS PURELY UNOFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, AND THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN GOS POLICY TOWARD GVN AND THAT GOS HAD NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING PRG.

4. FOR EMBASSY SAIGON: GIANG REQUESTS THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN PASS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY INFO IN PARA 3--SPECIFICALLY RAJA'S AGREEMENT THAT GVN MAY CLARIFY NATURE PRG VISIT TO SINGAPORE--FOR POSSIBLE USE IN REBUTTING PRG PROPOGANDA.

5. GIANG SAID THEY DISCUSSED PRG REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AT SOME LENGTH. HOWEVER, GOS POSITION REMAINED PRECISELY SAME AS REPORTED REF B. RAJA SAID GVN WOULD VOTE AGAINST PRG AT WMO CONFERENCE. (HOWEVER, JUNIOR OFFICER IN MFA ADVISED EMBASSY JANUARY 31 THAT MFA POSITION ON THIS MATTER STILL HAD TO BE V APPROVED BY CABINET.) GIANG SAID HE POINTED OUT THAT PRG ISSUE WOULD PROBABLY COME UP AT NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND ASKED RAJA'S ASSURANCE THAT GOS WOULD SUPPORT GVN AT THESE CONFERENCES. RAJA ADVISED GIANG THAT IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF THE GOS BEING FOR OR AGAINST THE PRG. IT WAS PURELY A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE PRG HAD THE REQUISITE ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE GOS WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE PRG AS LONG AS IT DID NOT HAVE THESE ATTRIBUTES.

6. GIANG COMMENTED THAT RAJA WAS CLEARLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, AND BELIEVED PRG HAD MADE "ENCROACHMENTS" WHICH HAD IMPROVED ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION. IT WAS ALSO APPARENT THAT GOS DID NOT WANT TO GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO PROVOKE PRG. RAJA WARNED GIANG THAT GVN WOULD HAVE TO EXPECT A LOT OF TROUBLE AT NEXT SESSION OF THE UNGA. THE ALGERIANS AND OTHERS WERE PARTICULARLY UPSET OVER THEIR DEFEAT ON THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE AND WAS DETERMINED THAT AT THE NEXT UNGA SESSION GRUNK WOULD PREVAIL AND A PRG LIAISON OFFICE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN NEW YORK.

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## Message Attributes

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